

The Fool-Killer

A Monthly Mustand-Plaster for the Blood-Boils of Society, Church and State.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

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BOOMER, NORTH CAROLINA.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

Single subscription, one year, 50 cts.
In clubs of four or more, 15 cts.

Entered as second-class matter
March 3, 1916, at the postoffice at
Boomer, N. C., under the act of
March 3, 1879.

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THE FOOL-KILLER,
Boomer, . . . North Carolina.

HEART-TO-HEART TALK.

Now, dear readers and friends this is a personal letter to you. I want you to regard it as just as personal and just as important as if I had written it direct on my typewriter and mailed it to you in a sealed envelope under a two-cent stamp.

What do you think of the line of talk I am giving you this time? If you believe my New Message contains something that the people ought to read and think about then I want you to appoint yourself as a missionary to help spread it among your friends. Tote this issue around in your pocket and read it to people you meet and ask them what they think about it. You will find more people thinking along these lines than you might suppose. And if you happen to strike a few who have not yet begun to think on these things, this paper will wake them up and put them to thinking.

The whole human race today is aware of the fact that this old earth is passing through a great crisis, and that SOMETHING of far-reaching consequence to the people must be the result. The human mind is in a questioning attitude, wondering if this really is the end, and the old out-dried conceptions of what is going to happen in the wind-up are being changed rapidly.

Hence the time is ripe for this New Message, and I want you to help me spread it into every nook and corner of this broad land. It is going to take a great deal of money to run this thing under present conditions. Print paper costs about twice what it formerly did, and some kind of war tax (in the form of postage or other wise) is going to fall heavily on all publishers. And besides that I am constantly needing to add new machinery and office equipment to handle the business. You folks hustle up the clubs and I'll furnish the chin-music till every thing goes easy.

JUDGE IVES AGREES WITH ME.

Hon. W. M. Ives, of Lake City, Fla., is a noted lawyer and Judge. Being thoroughly trained in law and having a judicial turn of mind, Judge Ives ought to be able to understand what the language of Scriptures means. It is a Judge's business to decide hard questions, and to decide them RIGHT. Judge Ives will now proceed to pass sentence on the "immortal soul" doctrine.

"Your paper gets better. The devil is the author of the inherent immortality. (Genesis 3:3-4) And Rome and the whole church accepts it. And preachers, instead of believing I Tim. 6:19, Romans 2:7, and I Cor. 15:53-54 have theology to contradict God. I tell people a man cannot get into Hell (as the orthodox use the word) until after the judgment, (Acts 17:31.) and he ought not to desire to go to Heaven, (Psalms 115:15-17.) Preachers say I hold a dangerous doctrine, which is calculated to ruin all churches. They teach, however, that Satan told Eve the truth (Gen. 3:4.)

W. M. IVES,
Lake City, Fla.

Whenever one of our big statesman or big popular leaders of any kind undertakes to shoot off his lip on some Biblical subject, the result is such a colossal display of ignorance that it is highly amusing.

GETTING INTO LONG PANTS

Well, folks, how dows you like the size and general appearance of The Fool-Killer this time?

I thought it was old enough to put on long pants if it was ever going to.

So here you are. After being a little dinky 4-column sheet for nearly ten years, it has suddenly blossomed out into the regular six-column newspaper size.

This enlargement is going to cost a good deal, both in material and labor, but I think it will be worth all it costs.

I have made so many promises to enlarge the paper, and then failed to do it, that I just took a fool notion to slip up on you this time and enlarge without saying anything about it beforehand.

Promises are all right if kept, but performance is better.

And here is the PERFORMANCE stuck right-ker-dab under your nose for you to look at.

Now, honey, if you are willing to help me keep it up to this and make it still better, just come trotting along with all the big clubs you can get.

You furnish the chink, and I'll furnish the chat.

"USEFUL IN WAR."

There is a healthy fuss on hand among the army bosses as to how the army air service shall be conducted in the future. They all want to make it "useful in future wars," but they can't agree on any plan of action.

Huh! How about our League of Nations that is going to prevent future war? Looks to me like the whole army shebang might as well be junked if our League is going to do such wonders.

But I reckon if the angels should come down and give every one of the army snobs a heavenly harp, they would go around hunting for some way to make them "useful in war."

Don't that tickle you?
It tickles me.

DID YOU KNOW THIS?

Did you know that when a cannon is fired it does not make a bit of noise? The noise is made by the ear-drums of the people who hear it. The very heaviest thunder that ever rolls through the heavens does not produce a particle of sound. The sound is produced in the ears of the people who hear it. If there was not an ear in the whole universe it would be impossible for any noise to be made.

If every eye on earth were put out, the earth would be in total darkness. The sun might shine just as bright as it does, but there would not be any light. The light is not made by the sun, but by the eye that does the seeing.

If all the human beings on earth were dead and every human brain moldered back to dust, there could not be any human intelligence nor thought nor memory of anything that had been in the past. Human consciousness does not come from the outside and cannot exist on the outside. Conscious continuity of life cannot exist without memory, and memory cannot exist without the physical brain on which the events have been recorded. Therefore, when the body dies, memory ceases; and when memory ceases there is no more conscious connection with the experiences of the past.

If an "immortal soul" cannot remember the past it cannot be conscious that it is the same soul that once lived in a certain human body. And if it cannot know that, it is not in a position to know very much of anything else.

That whole botched-up theory about souls living on and knowing everything after death is the biggest piece of nonsense I ever heard tell of.

PARAGRAPHS

Now just watch prices decline upwards.

There seems to be a rat in the ratification.

A few more hauls like that and Henry 4d will be rich.

Perhaps Henry will take that six cents and buy him a 4d.

Ireland is a country where there is nearly as much "fire" as there is "land."

What was that I heard about Postmaster General Burdensome going to resign? Say it agin please.

"Mexico will be normal in ninety days," says a head-line. Wonder who is going to start the trouble this time?

It seems that the crime of having "ideas" is what's the matter with the Bolsheviks. Armies mustn't have any "ideas," you know.

Wars and labor troubles and all their attendant evils will not cease until "better service" instead of "more profit" becomes the standard of government.

They have built a big power dam on a river in Alabama, and they have named it "Wilson Dam." But lots of people will say it backwards.

You can set it down as a sure fact that no capitalist paper wants any true facts about Russia these days. But there is a great demand for lies on the subject.

Kill one man in private life and you are a murderer. Kill a hundred men in war and you are a hero. But I have my serious doubts about whether God looks at it that way or not.

I want every person on my list again who ever did take The Fool-Killer anywhere back in the past. If you happen to know one who isn't on, show him this paper and take his sub.

Irv Cobb says the good reporter is the one who gets the facts. Yes, and I reckon he is still "gopher" when he learns to suppress the facts and hatch up lies to suit the bosses.

They say that in South America the United States dollar is at a discount of about 20 per cent. Hooray, let's all go to South America. Here at home the dollar is at a discount of about 75 per cent.

No, Hiram, it is not Bolshevik propaganda that is causing the radical wave to swell so in this country. It is the fool conduct of the bosses in trying to suppress everything that crosses their path.

They tell us that "peace" has come, and yet from reliable sources I learn that more than twenty wars are this minute going on in the world. This must be the "peace that passeth all understanding."

It is seriously reported that the monarchists of Russia have gotten together and offered the throne to a young water-sprout of the Romanoff family. Sorter like a dying chinch trying to will the bedstead to a louse.

Any line of teaching that the bosses disapprove of is "propaganda," but anything that they want taught in the interest of their own selfish schemes—that's "education." It's a mighty fine thing to have a few scare-words ready when needed.

The Greensboro Daily News calls the United States "the heavyweight among nations." Maybe so; but you drop a heavy weight in a bog of soft mud and it will sink deeper than a light weight. You can study out the moral for yourself.

It is a favorite pastime of the capitalist press to refer to Socialists as "dupes." But that don't fool anybody. We all know that the real "dupes" are the poor ignorant working people who are willing to be exploited and skinned by the plutocrats and still trot after them.

The life of the average sleepy-headed person from now on is going to be just one big surprise after another. I would hate to be of those who are asleep and have to get such a rude awakening. Folks, you had better wake up now, before it is too late.

MY TWO DISCOVERIES.

Within the past ten years I have made two discoveries. At first I didn't realize that they were so closely related, but now I have come to see that my two discoveries are full-blooded brothers—or sisters, whichever you prefer. They depend on each other in a very vital sense, and each proves the truth of the other.

I was raised up in the orthodox fold, both politically and religiously. Just swallowed what they gave me and never took the trouble to think any for myself until I was nearly thirty years old. It was only after I had started The Fool-Killer that I began to think for myself. The mental effort required in editing the paper was what got me started. Quite naturally I had to read and study and keep more closely in touch with world-events than I ever did before. And being by nature just a big enough fool to be honest with myself, I was soon traveling a mental road that the old mossbacks said was dangerous. But I knew better. I was actually on the road and seeing it for myself, and I knew it was a good road. The mossbacks had never traveled the road—had never even seen it—but had only HEARD that it was dangerous. I felt safer in trusting my own eyes than in trusting the "hearsay" of people who had never been there. So I went serenely ahead in my new path of thought, and have never for a moment been sorry of it.

My first discovery was that Orthodox Politics was rotten, false and dangerous. I saw that all the old political parties were lined up with the money power, and that their sole aim and object was to serve the special interests of the rich and get fat offices for themselves. During campaign times they shed lots of crocodile tears over the "dear peepul" and promise them all creation with a fence around it. But there is not one drop of sincerity in all their salty wopes, and they have no intention of keeping their fair promises when they make them.

Neither the Democratic nor Republican party has ever stopped and asked itself: What can I do that will reduce the amount of suffering in the world and make the living conditions of all the people easier? No-sir-ee Bob! The only question they ever ask is this: What can I do that will get me the solid support of the rich and powerful interests? What special favors can I give the capitalists, bankers, manufacturers, speculators and war-lords in exchange for their support? Thus they swap and trade with these powers of darkness to keep themselves in office, and the "dear peepul" pay the freight.

That was my first great discovery, and the moment the truth dawned on me I was done with old-party politics forever.

My next great discovery came a little later and a little more gradually, and it was this: Orthodox Religion is just as much like Orthodox Politics as two peas in a pod. It is rotten with hypocrisy, pride and selfishness, and is also living adultery with the money power. Its theology, borrowed mostly from paganism, has been gotten up especially to scare the ignorant masses into submission, and make them satisfied with their present miserable conditions by threats of a worse condition hereafter. The idea is to paint a picture of future misery so much worse than anything that men have experienced that the contrast will make the present misery seem quite bearable. Even very dirty snow looks tolerably white against a background of absolute black.

And so I discovered that the popular churches do not represent the true spirit of Christ at all. They are not working in

the interest of the people, nor in the interest of true religion, but always plotting and planning to keep on the rich and popular side. They swap and trade with the money power just as the political parties do, and for the same reason. Capital offers so many million dollars for so many meek and obedient slaves, and orthodox churchanity is able to fill the order. With the crack and sizzle of the "hell" whip over their heads, the faithful dupes are driven on to slave for the bosses.

In short, I discovered that orthodox politics and orthodox churchanity are the devil's twins and that I could not cut loose from one without cutting loose from the other. And I thank God today that I am loose from both.

LISTEN! HEAR ANYTHING

The Laymen's Movement, which made big promises about converting the world by a certain date, and with half-concealed contempt for the work of the preachers through the years of the past, has collapsed, as it should have done; and a better movement, which includes the preachers, has come to the front. Out of this latter movement the Seventy-five Million Dollar Campaign was born, and Big Business has had the sense to put the preachers in front. Now you are going to hear something. —Charity and Children, Thomastown, N. C.

For pure humor the above is a gem. And the thing that makes it so irresistible funny is the fact that it seems to have been said in all seriousness.

Charity and Children is a Baptist paper, and its editor of course thinks that the Baptist creed contains all truth and that no other creed contains any. He thinks that the sun rises and sets in the Baptist churchyard, and that everything else is in darkness. He seems sorter glad that the Laymen's Movement failed to convert the world by a certain date, and he rejoices that a better movement, which includes the preachers, has now come to the front.

And what has the "better movement" done that it deserves such great praise?

Why, bless yer gizzard, honey, it has started out to beg Seventy-five Million Dollars to be used in buying up high-class popularity for the Baptists.

Money is the main object with the Baptist church as well as all the rest, and any movement that promises to rake in a big pile of the long green is what they are after. It don't make much difference whether they have any truth or any spirituality or not —MONEY is the important thing.

And just look how innocently this editor lets it out that Big Business is the power behind all these "movements." He says it just as solemnly as if he thought that was the proper way for it to be, and I reckon he does.

But to me it is very funny. What do you suppose Big Business cares for religion, anyhow, except as it can use religion and the preachers to feather its own nest? And about the worst thing that can be said of the preachers is that they will submit to letting Big Business use them in such a way.

Is it possible that the churches and the preachers have exhausted every other means of holding the respect of the people? And is that why they have to hook up with the money power and buy the Big Business brand of guaranteed respectability?

My stars alive, what a pass churchanity is coming to!

"Now you are going to hear something!" sweetly warbles the optimistic editor of Charity and Children. Yes, for one thing you are going to hear the curse of God pronounced upon all such money-grabbing schemes.

Looky here, if there is anybody in your neighborhood that don't take this paper, go after 'em.

THIS IS WHY

If you are going to try to classify me politically at all I guess you will have to call me a Socialist, but you will find as you read along that some of my views are considerably different from those of most Socialists.

The average Socialist believes that a perfect and ideal condition of society can be brought about by simply putting his political ideas into operation through the channels of co-operative government. He believes man can do all this in his own strength, and he does not often take into consideration the fact that God must be reckoned with. His materialistic conception of history does not have any room for God's over-ruling providence and for the working out of a divine plan.

Here is my position: I believe that human nature as we now have it in this world is inherently selfish and evil, and I don't believe it is possible to have any perfect government on earth as long as men have the full say-so about it.

I believe the only hope of ever having a perfect government on this earth is for Jesus Christ to come and set it up and run it. And I believe that is just what He is going to do pretty soon.

Then maybe you wonder why I consider the Socialists any nearer right than the other parties. For this reason: The Socialists have caught a glimpse of the great light ahead, and they are looking and working toward it. They are wanting the Millennium of peace and righteousness to come, and they are doing all they can to bring it, according to the light they have. They think they are going to bring the good times themselves, and the glorious prospect of it makes them glad. When they find out that they can't do it alone, but that God is going to help them do it, they will be glad of that, too.

The main point is that the Socialists are in a better state of mind to receive and appreciate the great changes that are soon to come. The changes may not be just the kind they are looking for, and may not come in just the way they expect. But because they are honestly expecting and working for a change in the social order, they are in a favorable state of mind to accept and appreciate whatever comes.

Now look at the old capitalist parties, on the other hand. They have set their heads against any change at all. They say the present evil system of skin-or-be-skinned is good enough for them. They want their rich pets to continue riding on the backs of the poor, and they would like to put everybody in jail who even hints that there ought to be a change.

And let me tell you right now, the old mossbacks, who neither expect nor desire any change at all, are going to be the worst whipped set you ever heard tell of. If they had half sense they could see that great change has already come, and that still greater changes are just a little distance in the future. There is no possible chance for the world to get back to where it was before the war. When the stand-patters do have to give over and admit that the current of change and revolution is too strong for them, oh, what a sick and disappointed set they will be! And then when the God of heaven strikes the final blow and winds up all of these little fussy governments of men to make room for His righteous Kingdom on earth, there will be wailing and gnashing of teeth among the plutes.

But those of us who have the sure word of prophecy to teach us that these things are coming—we will not be taken by surprise. And the Socialists—although they didn't see through the plan—will find themselves better satisfied than they ever expected to be.

So that's why I am in sympathy with the Socialists, although I may sometimes disagree with them.